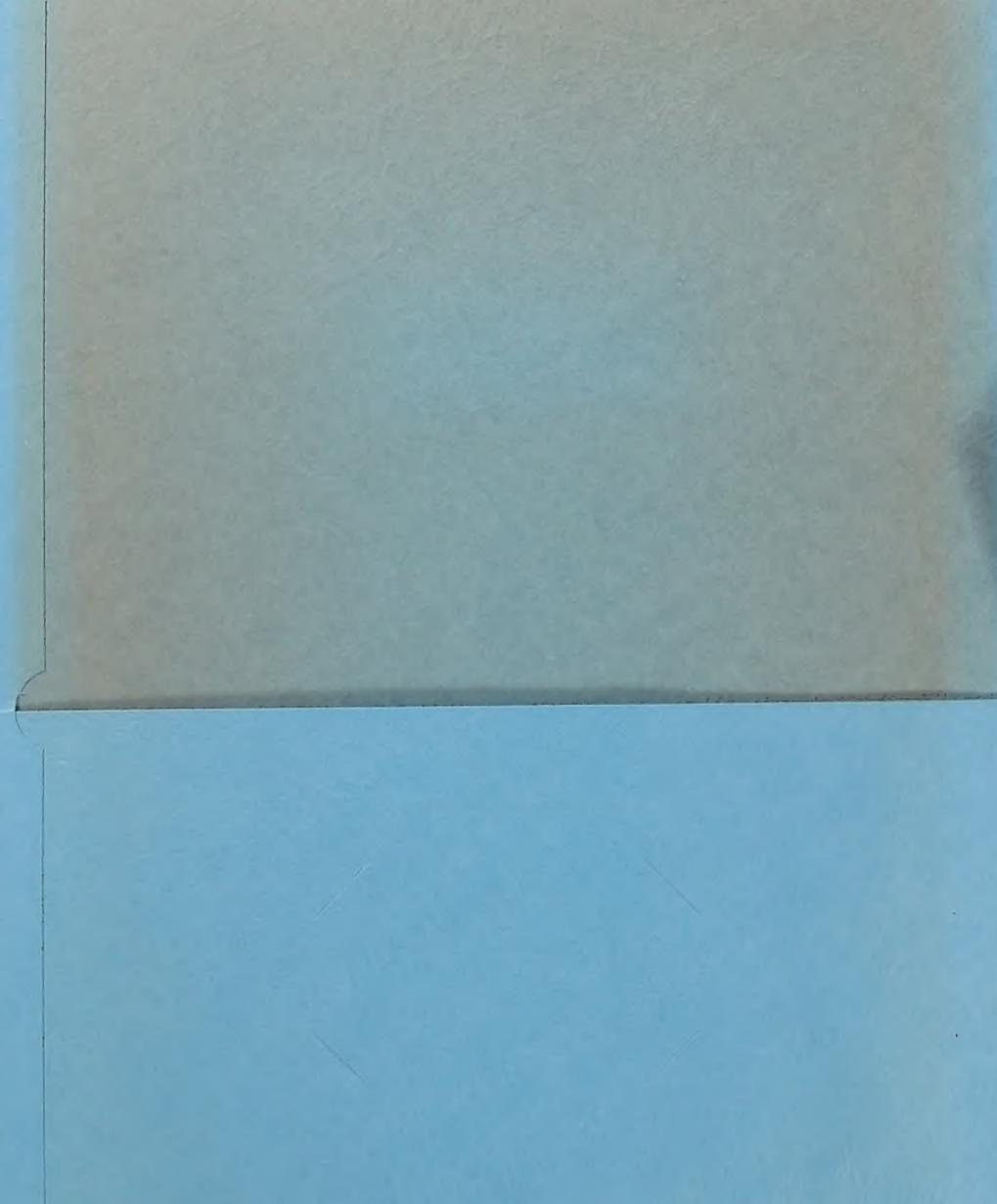


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Review of 1989 Algonquin
Park master plan review



REVIEW OF 1989



Ministry of
Natural
Resources
Ontario

Vincent G. Keniry
Minister

ALGONQUIN PARK MASTER PLAN REVIEW

What Is This Paper About?

1989 marks the second review of the Algonquin Provincial Park Master Plan. This tabloid will explain to you:

- ❖ Why we need your help and how you can become involved in this review;
 - ❖ Who the Provincial Parks Council is, and what is their role in this review;
 - ❖ What has gone on in Algonquin since the last review (1979); and
 - ❖ What the issues are and suggested ways to solve them.
- Also, a questionnaire is attached to this tabloid to solicit your reaction to these issues and any other ones you may have.

Why A Review And Why You Should Help

A Master Plan was written for Algonquin Park in 1974 establishing detailed policy guidelines for management and future development of the park. To ensure these plans remain current and relevant, a periodic review must be carried out.

Now, you may not find subjects like park management or planning to be the most interesting of topics and, frankly, we find this quite understandable. If you do visit and use the park facilities, it is entirely normal that you would prefer to go on a canoe trip or watch moose feeding rather than worry about the policies and management that make those activities possible.

However, the truth is that you should take an interest. Being an Ontario taxpayer, you have a right to express your views on park policies and management. The threats and pressures on a park like Algonquin are always there and so are the chances of making some policy decision that will have regrettable consequences down the road.

The last time the Master Plan was reviewed for a full range of park issues was in 1979. A special review of cottage leasehold policy was carried out in 1986 and this year another major review is being held. So, if you care about Algonquin, you should reflect on its management and make your views known during this review.



Spring Break-up at Tea Lake

Algonquin's Planning History

The actual planning process leading to the 1974 Master Plan started in the fall of 1966. The first public document produced from this planning process was the Provisional Master Plan for Algonquin Park, released in November, 1968. A series of public meetings were held in the same month with the plan attracting a great amount of interest and controversy.

In response, the government appointed the Algonquin Park Advisory Committee in August of 1969. This committee consisted of representatives from a wide

variety of interest groups under the chairmanship of L.M. Frost. The committee was given a mandate to study the park issues and advise the Department of Lands and Forests, now known as the Ministry of Natural Resources, on management policies for the park. They produced the *Algonquin Provincial Park Advisory Committee Report: Government Policy* in July of 1973 containing 36 recommendations. These recommendations provided the direction for the production of the 1974 Master Plan.

Master plans, now known as park management plans, must undergo

periodic reviews following their approval and release. Algonquin's Master Plan endured its first review in 1979. The review was not to question the basic philosophy established in the Master plan but to identify problems and issues arising as a result of plan implementation and new considerations based on revised or updated background information. The Provincial Parks Council was requested to conduct the public review in 1979. The Council chaired a number of public meetings. They received a total

of 167 formal briefs dealing with a variety of issues. The Parks Council presented 102 recommendations dealing with 35 different issues to the Minister of Natural Resources for consideration. The final product of this process was the Parks Council's Fifth Annual Report containing their recommendations and the Minister's response to each recommendation.

After ten years of implementation, it is appropriate to conduct a second review of the Algonquin Park Master Plan.

The Parks Council Wants You To Get Involved

The Minister of Natural Resources has once again called upon the Provincial Parks Council to execute a review of the Algonquin Park Master Plan. Established in 1974, the Provincial Parks Council is a citizen's advisory body reporting to the Minister of Natural Resources on matters pertaining to policy, planning, development and management of Ontario's provincial parks. The following is an open letter from the Provincial Parks Council:

Dear Reader:

The Parks Council's goal for the 1989 review of the Algonquin Park Master

Plan is to get as many people who are interested in the park involved in the review process. One important way is through this tabloid and attached questionnaire. We hope to get the public's reaction to the issues that have been identified in this tabloid along with any issues they are interested in presenting. The results of this questionnaire, together with formal briefs and comments received at public meetings, will form the basis upon which we as a council will make recommendations for changes to the 1974 Master Plan to the Minister of Natural Resources.

The Parks Council will chair six public meetings to listen to and receive briefs and comments from the public. The dates and locations for these meetings are as follows:

<i>Whitney</i>	<i>August 10</i>
<i>Huntsville</i>	<i>September 19</i>
<i>Minden</i>	<i>September 20</i>
<i>Pembroke</i>	<i>September 21</i>
<i>Ottawa</i>	<i>October 3</i>
<i>Toronto</i>	<i>October 4</i>

The exact meeting place and starting times at these locations will be publicized by local media well in advance of the meeting dates. If you are

unable to attend any of these meetings and make your views known in person, we invite you to send us your views in writing and fill out the questionnaire at the back of this tabloid.

Algonquin Park will celebrate its Centennial in 1993, and as one of Ontario's finest park resources, will require careful management to maintain its integrity for future generations. Please accept this invitation to become involved in the review process.

Ontario Provincial Parks Council

What's Happened Since 1979?

All interested users of Algonquin Park should be aware of several major developments that have occurred in the park since 1979 when the last Master Plan Review was held.

Algonquin Park staff have been upgrading existing and adding new facilities, playing a supporting role in the formation of a new cooperating association, and completing a major marketing study for the park.



Opeongo Lake's Impressive New Access Point Buildings

Improved Facilities Along Highway 60

Campgrounds

Last year all washroom facilities were upgraded in campgrounds and picnic sites. Washroom partitions and vault toilets were replaced and showers were added at Mew, Pog and Lake of Two Rivers Campgrounds. Wheelchair access to

washrooms was improved with the addition of ramps to entrances, and larger washroom stalls. New water systems were installed at Mew Lake, Lake of Two Rivers and Pog Lake Campgrounds to meet the ever increasing water demand.

Interpretive Facilities

Changes and additions have been made to the park's interpretive facilities. In 1984, a new bookstore was added to the Park Museum lobby. Last year, the bird wing underwent a facelift. The existing black and white photographs were replaced with colour photographs. Also, the old wolf exhibit was refurbished with a new occupant and a more realistic backdrop.

All benches were replaced at the Pog Lake amphitheatre, bestowing the outdoor theatre with a fresh new look.

At the Pioneer Logging Exhibit, a bookstore has been added, selling mainly books and articles depicting Algonquin's rich history.

Information Centres

To provide better service to visitors visiting Algonquin Park, two new information centres have been established at the East and West Gates on Highway 60. These centres provide visitors with an opportunity to utilize the programming,

Three new self guided trails have been added to Algonquin's interpretive trail system. Mizzy Lake Trail (see map below) will maximize your chances to view wildlife, particularly moose, beaver and otter, along nine small lakes and ponds. The Barron Canyon Trail, located on the Achray Road, follows the north rim of the spectacular 100 metre deep Barron Canyon. The upgraded Brent Crater Trail, situated near the northern boundary of Algonquin, loops the ancient floor of a huge meteorite crater. One may also observe the crater from a wooden observation tower at the beginning of the trail.

special events and facilities being offered prior to continuing their drive into the park along Highway 60. With this improved service, the old centre at Cache Lake was no longer required and was closed in 1986.

Opeongo Access Point

All new administrative offices and support buildings directly connected to Algonquin's interior program have the square log building motif relating to the park's early pioneer architecture. This design characteristic has also been incorporated into the major redevelopment project occurring at Opeongo access point.

Redevelopment of this major entry point

was called for in the 1974 Master Plan and the 1979 Review. A number of buildings have been removed from the site and new ones have been constructed over the past two years. The old permit office and the outfitters store have both been replaced by impressive square log buildings. The next step in this redevelopment process will be to install a new sewage system which will service the entire Opeongo access point area.

Lake of Two Rivers Store

The Lake of Two Rivers store is currently undergoing renovations. Workers have replaced the roof and created a new building entrance. Some building restructuring and landscaping

will be completed prior to the summer camping season. It is hoped these renovations will improve the building's appearance and convenience for visitors shopping or getting a quick bite to eat.

Winter Trails

Four cross-country ski trails have been constructed along the Highway 60 corridor, providing over 100 km of groomed trails. The rated trails range from easy, more difficult, to most difficult, depending on the type of terrain the trail passes through. Three of the trails (Leaf Lake/David Thompson, Fen Lake and Minnesing) have warm-up shelters located along the route.



Winter Camping is Becoming More Popular Every Year



Interior Renovations

Access Points

Park staff are continuing to upgrade interior access point entry stations surrounding the park. The latest are at Kawayamog Lake and Magnetawan/Tim River access points where new access point offices have been constructed. In the small access point campground at Brent, a new water system and toilets have been installed.

Portages

Four major portages (including the Burnt Island and Proulx Lake portages) have been upgraded, solving erosion problems hindering canoe trippers over the years.

Campsite Privies

Crews have been busy installing box privies on campsites in the interior. It is hoped that within the next two years this project will be completed with each site having one of these new privies.

Park Wardens

From the direction given in the 1979 Master Plan review, additional park wardens have been hired during the summer to enforce regulations, but more importantly, to provide information to those travelling the interior.

Other Happenings Since 1979

A Cooperating Association Has Been Formed

A cooperating association - The Friends of Algonquin Park, was formed in June of 1983. This association is dedicated to furthering the educational and interpretive programs of Algonquin Park. Although it was the first for the Ontario Provincial Parks System, the cooperating association is actually just one more example of a highly successful idea dating back to over 60 years in the United States and 10 years in Canada. The basic principle is a group of private citizens form an incorporated association which undertakes the task of raising money for a park through sales of park related publications and other items.

Upon its formation, the Friends of Algonquin immediately signed an important agreement with the park to assume Algonquin's priced publication system. The money the Friends make through the sale of these park publications is available to develop new publications, reprint existing publications and to enhance the overall visitor services program for the park.

Within the first year of operation, the Friends of Algonquin had generated enough profits on their own to fund two new cooperative projects with the park.



One was the preparation and the printing of an illustrated guide book for the new Mizzy Lake Interpretive Trail. The other was to construct a book shop in the lobby of the park museum. This store markets over 200 natural and human history titles, slides, video tapes and other educational products.

Over the past five years, the Friends have released five new park publications, *The Trees of Algonquin Park*, *Mushrooms of Algonquin Park*, and three new interpretive trail guides; produced a cassette of Algonquin wilderness sounds entitled *Voices of Algonquin*, a video tape of the Images of Algonquin, a slide program; opened a new bookstore at the Logging Exhibit; and assisted the Ministry in refurbishing the bird wing in the museum. The 'Friends' have also shared the financing with the Algonquin Forestry Authority to update the popular logging history slide show. Within the past two years the 'Friends' have also made it possible to have staff at the logging exhibit.

These and many other projects would not have been possible without a 'Friends' organization. They are, and will continue to be an important organization, enhancing the interpretive program at Algonquin.



The Museum's Bookshop Stocks Publications, and Audio/Video Cassettes for Every Interest.



Better Footing on the Corridors' Principal Portages

The Buffer Zone

A statement in the 1974 master Plan called for a one mile wide buffer zone to be created around Algonquin. The purpose of this zone was to control development and use of Crown lands abutting the park's boundary.

During the recent review of the Quetico Provincial Park's Management Plan, the Minister rescinded the park's buffer zone policy. He further stated that District Land Use Plans of adjacent Districts were to be amended to identify areas formerly within the buffer zone to be known as Areas of Concern. This will ensure the review of

Cottage Leases Extended to 2017

In 1986 on the Minister's behalf, the Parks Council conducted a review of government policy towards the several hundred private cottage leases in the park. These leases were all to be terminated by 1995. Following well attended public meetings and the submission of many briefs, the Council recommended, and the

New Fisheries Management Plan

Following two years of planning and public consultation (4000 questionnaires distributed, three open houses, a summer long exhibit at the Park Museum, numerous articles and public addresses) the park produced its first fisheries management plan in 1986. All of the plan's provisions were backed by a majority of public support and they include several new regulations coming into force this year. Designed to protect dwindling lake trout stocks along

Changes in Timber Management

One of the major features of the 1974 Algonquin Park Master Plan was the cancellation of all existing timber licenses within the park and the creation of one single logging company, a Crown corporation called the Algonquin Forestry Authority (A.F.A.) which now supplies wood to the 20 logging companies that used to cut their own wood in the park.

In 1983 the A.F.A. also took over the day-to-day responsibility of timber management in the park. This was formerly carried out by the Ministry of Natural Resources—with whom ultimate authority and responsibility for timber management still remains.

Parallel to this review of the Master Plan, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the A.F.A. are now in the process of developing a new Algonquin Park Timber Management Plan for the period 1990-1995. Public review and input are integral parts of this planning process and you are invited to participate. Current planning options and implications may be examined at the Timber Office at Park Headquarters (East Gate) or at the A.F.A. office in Huntsville (contact Mr. Carl Corbett, chief forester at 705/789-9647). There will be open houses in the spring of 1989 (exact dates and places yet to be determined).

Marketing Study for Algonquin

In 1985 the Ministry engaged the private firm of Laventhal and Horwath Management Consultants to provide direction for needed upgrading and improvement of the park, particularly in view of the approaching Algonquin centennial in 1993. Laventhal and Horwath's study, released in February 1988, recommended a wide range of initiatives including the ones listed in the

adjacent chart. The park is proceeding with some of them but others will involve sufficiently large departures from the Master Plan that public approval would have to be obtained before the Ministry could consider implementing them. Items in this list are examples of such new ideas and that is why your input is requested in the questionnaire at the end of this tabloid.

What's In The Works

Behind the scenes a number of major new Algonquin Park projects are "in the works"

and we are sure many park visitors will want to know about them.

New Visitor Centre (Museum)

The need for a new museum worthy of Ontario's flagship park was recognized in the 1974 Master Plan, and reaffirmed in both the 1979 review and Laventhal and Horwath's independent marketing study of 1988. The detailed design work is now being carried out under Ministry coordination by Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan Ltd., exhibit designers and Arcop Ltd., architects. The site selected is on a hilltop 1 km south of Highway 60 on

the east side of Sunday Creek (Spruce Bog Boardwalk), overlooking a beautiful park landscape of lakes, bogs and forested hills. The building itself will be 25,000 square feet (present museum is 3000) and it will exhibit both the park's natural and human history according to detailed guidelines drawn up by park staff. Expected design completion date is in September 1989 and the new facility should be ready for the park centennial in 1993.

New Logging Museum

The present Pioneer Logging Exhibit at the East Gate was only meant to be a temporary site when it was opened back in 1960. The Ministry has now completed plans for a much better facility close by, and, in partnership with The Friends of Algonquin Park, has begun the project. The road and parking lot have already been cleared and the move to the new site is planned for 1992. Visitors will stand and end their visit at a log building housing

exhibits, a bookstore and theatre and will use a loop trail leading from one exhibit to the next explaining the story of logging in Algonquin Park. Among the more important exhibits will be the famous alligator, transferred from the present site, and an entirely new operating log dam and chute of the sort that was so widely used in Algonquin's early days for floating logs to the outside world.

Three New Trails

Over 100,000 people use Algonquin's interpretive walking trails every year and the Laventhal & Horwath marketing study reaffirmed the need for more—especially longer ones for more ambitious outings. Park staff have flagged out three new trails totalling 25 km (an approximate doubling of the Highway 60 trail system) and The Friends of Algonquin has tentatively agreed to take on the financing of trail and trail guide development over the next four years. The trails are:

i) **Bat Lake Trail:** (5 km) which will visit and interpret the park's major soil and forest types, the very interesting naturally

acidic Bat Lake, plus provide numerous scenic views.

ii) **Track and Tower Trail:** (12 km) which will visit a historic railroad trestle, log chute, a fire tower location, and a spectacular view over Cache Lake, as well as excellent wildlife viewing opportunities along the old track between Cache Lake and Lake of Two Rivers.

iii) **Centennial Ridges Trail:** (8 km) will afford superb viewing from two parallel cliffs, including one of the highest points in the Highway 60 corridor.

Some Of The Improvements And New Initiatives Recommended For Algonquin By Laventhal & Horwath

1. Paddle-in campsites
2. Canoe-in cabins
3. Hut-to-hut overnight trail systems
4. Day length walking trails
5. Full service R.V. campground
6. Major new visitor centre (museum)
7. New park lodge
8. Outdoor skill development centre
9. Parkway improvements (view points, picnic grounds)
10. Expanded interpretive program.

More detailed summaries of Laventhal and Horwath's report and recommendations may be examined at the park headquarters

(East Gate), the park Museum, or the Ministry's Regional Office in Huntsville.

Other Centennial Projects

Other centennial projects being proposed by The Friends of Algonquin Park in cooperation with the Ministry include a historic map of the park by internationally recognized cartographer Alex Rabago, a

collection of the best articles of *The Raven*, and a new book -- *Glimpses of Algonquin*, featuring a superb collection of writings on the park's past to be published later this year.

Review Of Nature Reserve System

Algonquin has 70 areas totalling 4 percent of the park zone as Nature Reserves to protect representative or unusual examples of the full range of our plant and animal communities. However, Nature Reserve zones are also supposed to protect important examples of geological features. These include both very tough bedrock features that aren't really in any danger but also more delicate surface features like eskers, kames and outwash plains that could be damaged by logging road construction for example. A number of such features have been identified since the original 1974 Master Plan and are being considered for inclusion in the park's Nature Reserve zone system.

Because of the impact that this would have on timber supplies and on the park dependent logging industry, the Ministry has decided to conduct a review this year of the entire Nature Reserve zone system to examine the appropriateness of all existing and proposed zones and to see what, if any, additions or deletions would be acceptable to all interests concerned. The review will be conducted by an environmental consultant. Any recommendations for changes in the Nature Reserve zone system will be submitted for public review before implementation.

Review Of Camping Facilities On Algonquin's East Side

The 1974 Master Plan identified two zones on the east side of Algonquin for campground development—Stration Lake and Basin Lake. A number of considerations (decline in the growth of camping, budgetary constraints, closing of the Achray work centre, and the high development costs in the two designated development zones) have led to the need to re-examine the whole question of where campgrounds should be developed on the park's east side.

Only one of the Development zones is required to satisfy present and future camping demand. The Stration Lake/

Achray area, based on past and present use demands, seems to be the most appropriate area to look at for future development. To what extent, amount, and kind of services and facilities needed, requires further study.

Ministry staff feel that both Lake Traverse and McManus Lake have excellent potential for campground development and should also be considered along with the Stration lake/Achray area.

When detailed plans are developed from this study they will be submitted to the public for review.



Key Issues And Suggested Solutions/Options

The Review Process

An area as large and diverse as Algonquin Park requires careful planning to ensure that management decisions reflect the needs of a variety of park users. The process of park management planning is designed to involve the public in resolving differing views and building a consensus on how the park's resources should be used.

It is important for the Provincial Parks Council to gather as much public opinion

1. Clyde And Bruton Townships

Clyde and Bruton Townships, the southern panhandle of Algonquin, were added to the park in 1961 by a special act of the Ontario Legislature which expressly stated that the already existing uses of hunting and trapping were to continue. This situation was further complicated by the presence of several cottages on private land, and a hydro transmission corridor where snowmobiling is permitted (the only place in the park). Amongst this traditional use are 5 Nature Reserve zones of which 3 are located south of the transmission corridor.

At present, the two townships have 72 hunt camps utilized by over 800 registered hunters as well as public hunting allowed in a 1 mile wide strip on either side of the hydro line and around Kingscote Lake, plus 9 registered trappers. Against this considerable traditional use is the fact that in the bulk of the area, below the hydro line, only one, very difficult canoe route receives very limited use. Obviously, these two townships do not conform to the public perception of what Algonquin Park is all about and raises the question of how Clyde and Bruton should be managed in the future.

as possible about park issues. In this manner, the recommendations the council makes to the Ministry will take into account the full range of opinions held by you, the park owners.

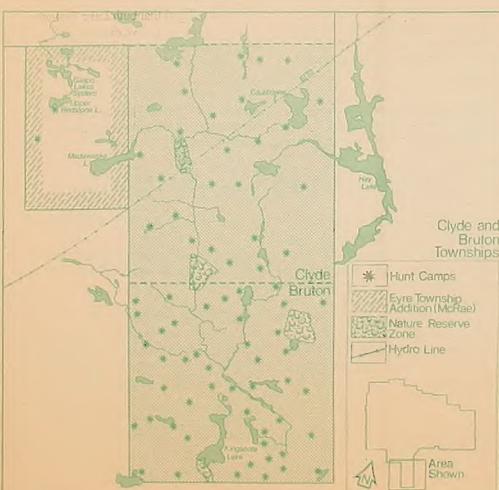
Please help the Council and the Ministry in this task by taking the time to read the accounts of the six following issues and then give us your thoughts by filling out the questionnaire that follows.

Also, the McRae Addition, an area abutting the western boundary of Clyde Township will be incorporated into Algonquin Park this year. Given its location, how should it be managed once included in the Park? Should this addition be managed as are Clyde and Bruton, or managed as is the remainder of Algonquin (no hunting and trapping).

These questions raise a number of management options.

Suggested Options:

- Remove Clyde and Bruton Townships from Algonquin Park and not add the McRae Addition to the park. allow existing uses in these areas to continue and protect the 5 Nature Reserve zones by making each a Nature Reserve provincial park.
- Maintain the status quo of Clyde and Bruton Townships and add the McRae Addition, managing it in a manner similar to Clyde and Bruton (allowing hunting and trapping to be phased out within the next 21 years).



c) Maintain Clyde and Bruton Townships as part of Algonquin and add the McRae Addition. Phase out hunting and trapping and manage these areas in a manner similar to the rest of Algonquin.

d) Add the McRae Addition to Algonquin but remove the area of Clyde and Bruton

Townships from the park south of the hydro line. Manage the remaining portion of Clyde Township (area north of hydro line) and McRae Addition as the rest of Algonquin Park. The area removed from the park will be managed as a Wildlife Management Area to protect existing uses in this area.



On Watch

2. Motorboats and Waterskiing

Suggested Solutions:

In this Master Plan review the proposal is being made to eliminate waterskiing entirely and to fix an upper limit of 20 horsepower on the 15 leasehold lakes, leaving Opeongo as the only lake in the park where unlimited horsepower motors could be used. It is also suggested that each leasehold lake organization be given the opportunity to set their own horsepower limit below the 20 hp. limit.

Leasehold Lakes Where Upper Horsepower Limit Would Go From "Unlimited" Down To 20 H.P.

Bonita	Kingscote*	Smoke*
Cache*	Kioshkwai*	Source*
Canoe*	Lake of Two Rivers*	Tanamakoon
Cedar*	Little Cauchon	Tea*
Galeairy	Rock*	Whitefish*

*Waterskiing now permitted



A Conflicting Use on Canoe Routes

3. Redistribution Of Interior Users

It will come as a surprise to many interior users to learn that Algonquin's canoe route network and associated interior campsites are under-used (only a 35 to 40 percent occupancy rate in July and August of 1984, for example).

The fact remains, however, that overcrowding is a serious problem, especially on long weekends at some access points. One of the main reasons for

this is a trend away from the longer lasting extended canoe trips in the park's interior (which used to be the norm) towards shorter weekend jaunts in which a party paddles up a lake, sets up there for a night or two until it's time to paddle back out. This makes for intolerably high concentrations of canoeists at particular times and in particular areas. The number of overnight parties on busy weekends within one day's

travel of Canoe Lake, for example, may reach 150 to 300—even though there are only 76 sites to accommodate them. Not surprisingly, there is a significant perception among many users that the interior of Algonquin is overcrowded (30 percent complaint rate in the park's 1983 interior user survey)—even though, as mentioned above, the park interior actually has plenty of unused capacity.

The concept of daily quotas at each access point to limit the number of parties setting out into the park interior was introduced in the 1974 Master Plan and was overwhelmingly endorsed (84 percent) in the 1975 interior user survey. The problem has been that the established quotas in many cases are too high in relation to the number of sites available to accommodate the users—which is why overcrowding sometimes develops in spite of the quotas.

Suggested Solutions:

The park proposes a three-pronged attack on the problem of temporary and local overcrowding in the interior based chiefly on the principle that users must be encouraged to avoid the present times and places of congestion. The following are the three elements of the program.

a) Increase the Capacity: The park is already well into a program to build over 100 additional campsites in the most popular areas, bringing them up to their maximum capacity. This includes the critical areas within one day's paddle of the main Highway 60 access points like

Canoe Lake and also new "destination campsites" on lakes such as Canisbay. Here people can have an excellent canoe/camping experience on a so called "dead-end" lake without taking up room on a main canoe route that could be better used by long distance trippers on their way into or out of the park interior.

b) 100 Percent Reservation System: Up until 1987 the reservation system for interior quota space only set aside 50 percent of each access point's quota leaving the other half to be picked up on a first-come first-served basis. This encouraged the notion that people could "take their chances" by travelling up to an access point and getting in on that day's unused quota. By reserving up to 100 percent of the quota, which the park began to do in 1988, the park can notify people ahead of time (and allow them to make alternative plans) when demand exceeds quota space at a particular access point.

c) Quota Changes: In order to bring the quotas into line with the maximum campsite capacity within the one day travel zone around affected access points, quotas must be changed (mostly reduced) as shown in the table below. Some of these reductions appear severe but the current quotas are no longer supportable due to over crowding. Also, even at the most affected access point, Canoe Lake, application of the new quota would affect only 5 percent of current users. Most of these could be easily accommodated at another access point or a change of starting date.

the park's northeast boundary via the hydro corridor (36 km in length), and from the Lake Traverse access road to White Partridge Lake (13 km in length).

Here again, as with the horseback riding, this activity requires an exclusive trail system. Further study would be necessary to determine types of facilities necessary, and the demand for such trail use.

Suggested Solutions:

a) That a horseback trail system be established on a trial basis in the Highway 60 corridor.

b) That a mountain bike trail system be established on a trial basis in the Highway 60 corridor.

5. New Marketing Initiatives

The marketing study conducted for the park by Lavenhol & Horwath Ltd. recommend the provision of a number of major new facilities that would be developed jointly by the private sector and the Ontario Government. These include:

i) New Park Lodge: The consultants recommended a new all-season lodge in the Parkway Corridor because their investigation of resort markets indicated that broadening the choices of lodgings available to park visitors would tend to attract different types of visitors and to extend use into the fall, winter and spring seasons. (The three private lodges that are presently operating in the Highway 60 Corridor are open only from May to October.) The consultants believe a mid-scale, family oriented lodge would be suitable for Algonquin.

The development and operation of such a facility would be done by the private sector under guidelines established by the Ministry of Natural Resources. It is anticipated that the lodge would include up to 80 rooms suitable for double occupancy, a dining room, indoor recreation room, seminar/workshop rooms, and outdoor recreation facilities consisting of a beach, boating equipment and an outdoor barbecue area.

The potential lodge site location is on Whitefish Lake, which was occupied by the Junior Ranger Camp. The site is already serviced by a year-round road, hydro electric power and a large waste disposal system.

ii) Skill Development Centre: The consultants recommend the establishment of a "skill development centre" because they recognized that many visitors lack the basic skills necessary for true (off highway) exploration and enjoyment of Algonquin.

A private concessionaire would develop and operate the facility, and provide staff to instruct (and charge for) such skills as

backpacking, canoeing, survival skills, fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and winter camping.

This facility would be open year-round, offering a wide variety of outdoor skills depending upon the season. The facility would be on a lake with a good beach, and close to ski trails. An area beside the present day use area at Canisbay Lake has been suggested as a suitable location. The facility would consist of a central core building where instruction and administrative functions would occur, and a series of semi-enclosed instruction nodes for different activities large enough to accommodate 12 to 20 people, and an outdoor equipment lock-up and winter storage area.

iii) Alternative Accommodation: The marketing consultants suggested that the provision of alternate forms of accommodation would appeal to a market segment now presently using Algonquin Park. Specifically, these could include things like hut-to-hut camping in the interior on a rental and pre-registration basis, dormitory style hostels, and rental cabins.

These would provide different types of accommodation for those wanting to travel into the interior (hut-to-hut camping, rental cabins) or along Highway 60 (hostels). Such facilities would only be located on canoe routes or trails where appropriate. It is not the intention to offer this type of accommodation throughout the interior of the park.

Suggested Solutions:

a) That a new year-round lodge should be constructed in Algonquin Park

b) That a skill development centre be established in the Highway 60 corridor.

c) That alternate forms of accommodation such as hut-to-hut camping, hostels, and rental cabins be considered in selected areas of the park.

4. Other Recreational Uses

From time to time, groups approach the park with requests that facilities be provided for different types of recreational activity not presently catered to in Algonquin. It has been suggested, for example, that one of the four cross-country ski trails along Highway 60 (which are now used only in winter) could be dedicated in the non-ski season to the exclusive use of horseback riding. Using a winter trail system would minimize the potential conflict between other types of summer trail users and also provide savings in development costs. This trail opportunity would be offered on a trial basis to not only study the possible implications that may result, but also how much demand exists.

Another cross-country ski trail could be used in the summer for mountain biking. Presently, two remote interior trails provide off-road biking in Algonquin Park: from McCaskill Lake extending to



Mountain Biking - A Different Way to Explore Algonquin

6. Access Point Camping

Car camping at four interior canoe route access points (Achray, Brent, Kiosk, Rain Lake) fills a need for those not wanting the rigors of interior travel or the bustle of larger campgrounds along Highway 60 or nearby provincial and private parks. Although the 1974 Master Plan review explicitly stated that no car camping facilities should be provided at access points, such use is not a problem and does provide some economic benefits to adjacent local areas.

However, with the exception of Achray, none of the mentioned access points have camping facilities that reflect the standards

of the Provincial Park System. Park staff recommend that the Master Plan be amended to permit their retention and upgrading to provincial standards.

Suggested Solutions:

a) That the campgrounds at Rain Lake, Kiosk, Brent and Achray access points be upgraded in keeping with the Ministry's basic standard of campground quality.

b) That the actual campsites be retained or close to their existing capacity level..

The following questionnaire has been added to this tabloid to solicit your reaction to the issues and suggested solutions. There is also space provided at the end of the questionnaire to indicate any other issues you may wish to see dealt with during this review.

The results of this questionnaire along with the briefs presented by individuals and special interest groups at public meetings and the background papers produced by Ministry staff will form the basis for the Provincial Parks Council to make recommendations on each issue to the Minister of Natural Resources.

The questionnaire is in two parts. The first part includes general questions on how you use Algonquin Park while the second part directly deals with each issue presented earlier in this tabloid.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Unless otherwise specified, please enter one number in the appropriate box to facilitate computer processing.

Example: If your response to question two is 5 people in your group, then code **05**

PART 1 - General Questions

NOTE: If you are not a visitor to the park (day visitor, car camper or interior camper), please proceed to Part 2 of this questionnaire on the following page.

1. Describe the size of your group.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 family | 2 one couple only | 3 organized group
(guide troop, club, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 group of friends | 5 single | 6 other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. How many people in your group?

- | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------|
| 1 yes | 2 no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-------|------|--------------------------|

3. Have you visited Algonquin Park before?

- | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------|
| 1 yes | 2 no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-------|------|--------------------------|

4. Did you visit Algonquin last year?

- | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------|
| 1 yes | 2 no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-------|------|--------------------------|

5. Are you travelling in the Algonquin Interior?

- | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------|
| 1 yes | 2 no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-------|------|--------------------------|

(if yes, please answer A, B, C, D, E, F, G)

A) Have you travelled in the Algonquin interior before?

- | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------|
| 1 yes | 2 no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-------|------|--------------------------|

B) At which access point did you enter the interior on this trip? (please write in your response below)

C) How many nights did you camp on this visit?

D) How many different campsites did you use?

E) Which of the following best describes your trip from home?

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 weekend trip | 2 vacation trip | 3 other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

F) What is the main purpose of this trip to Algonquin Park?

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1 camping | 2 canoeing | 3 angling | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 hiking | 5 boating | 6 swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 nature study | 8 other (please specify) | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

G) What type of water craft are you using?

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1 boat & motor | 2 canoe | 3 kayak | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 canoe & motor | 5 other (please specify) | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6. Are you camping in one of the campgrounds along Highway 60?

- | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------|
| 1 yes | 2 no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-------|------|--------------------------|

(if yes, please answer A, B, C, D)

A) What campground are you staying at? (please write in your response)

B) How many nights did you stay in this campground?

C) Which of the following best describes your trip from home?

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 weekend trip | 2 vacation trip | 3 other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

D) What is the main purpose of this trip to Algonquin Park?

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1 camping | 2 hiking | 3 angling | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 hiking | 5 boating | 6 swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 nature study | 8 other (please specify) | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Completed questionnaires can be dropped off at:

- Campground offices
- Park Museum
- East and West Gates on Highway 60
- Staffed access points
or
- Mailed to: Mr. Lloyd Burridge, Chairman
Provincial Parks Council
c/o Ministry of Natural Resources
Box 219
Whitney, Ontario K0J 2M0

7. Are you travelling to the park as a day visitor only?

- | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------|
| 1 yes | 2 no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-------|------|--------------------------|
- (if yes, please answer A, B, C)

A) Estimate the distance from your starting point to the park.

- B) With respect to this visit from home, would you consider this park to be:
 1 main destination 2 one of several destinations
 3 just a stopover enroute

C) If staying in the vicinity of the park, what type of accommodation are you using while on this park visit?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 permanent residence | 2 provincial park campsite | 3 hotel/motel |
| 4 cottage of friends | 5 resort/lodge | 6 commercial cottage |
| 7 personal cottage | 8 private campground | 9 other (please specify) |

8. One person is to be selected from your group and asked to indicate the activities he or she did while in the park by circling the appropriate numbers.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 picnicking | 2 sunbathing | 3 swimming/wading |
| 4 motorboating | 5 canoeing | 6 bicycling |
| 7 trail hiking (non-guided) | 8 walking/jogging | 9 casual play (throwing frisbee, softball, etc.) |
| 10 viewing nature or photography | 11 relaxing | 12 fishing |
| 13 visiting viewpoints | | 14 hikes/walks conducted by staff |
| 15 visiting logging exhibit | 16 staff organized campfires, wolf howls, etc. | 17 visiting museum |
| | 18 other (please specify) | |

9. Please indicate what you enjoyed most about your visit to Algonquin Park.

PART 2 - Park Issues. Your Reaction to the Issues

These questions relate to each issue presented earlier in this tabloid.

1. Clyde and Bruton Townships

A) Which management option do you prefer for Clyde, Bruton and McRae Additional detailed on Page 5?

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Option A | 2 Option B | 3 Option C |
| 4 Option D | 5 Other (please Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Motorboats

Recommendation

- A) The existing motorboat policy should be retained with the exception that the 16 lakes now permitting motorboats of unlimited horsepower be reduced to only one lake, that being Opeongo. The other 15 lakes (leasehold lakes) will have horsepower restrictions placed on them (maximum 20 hp.).

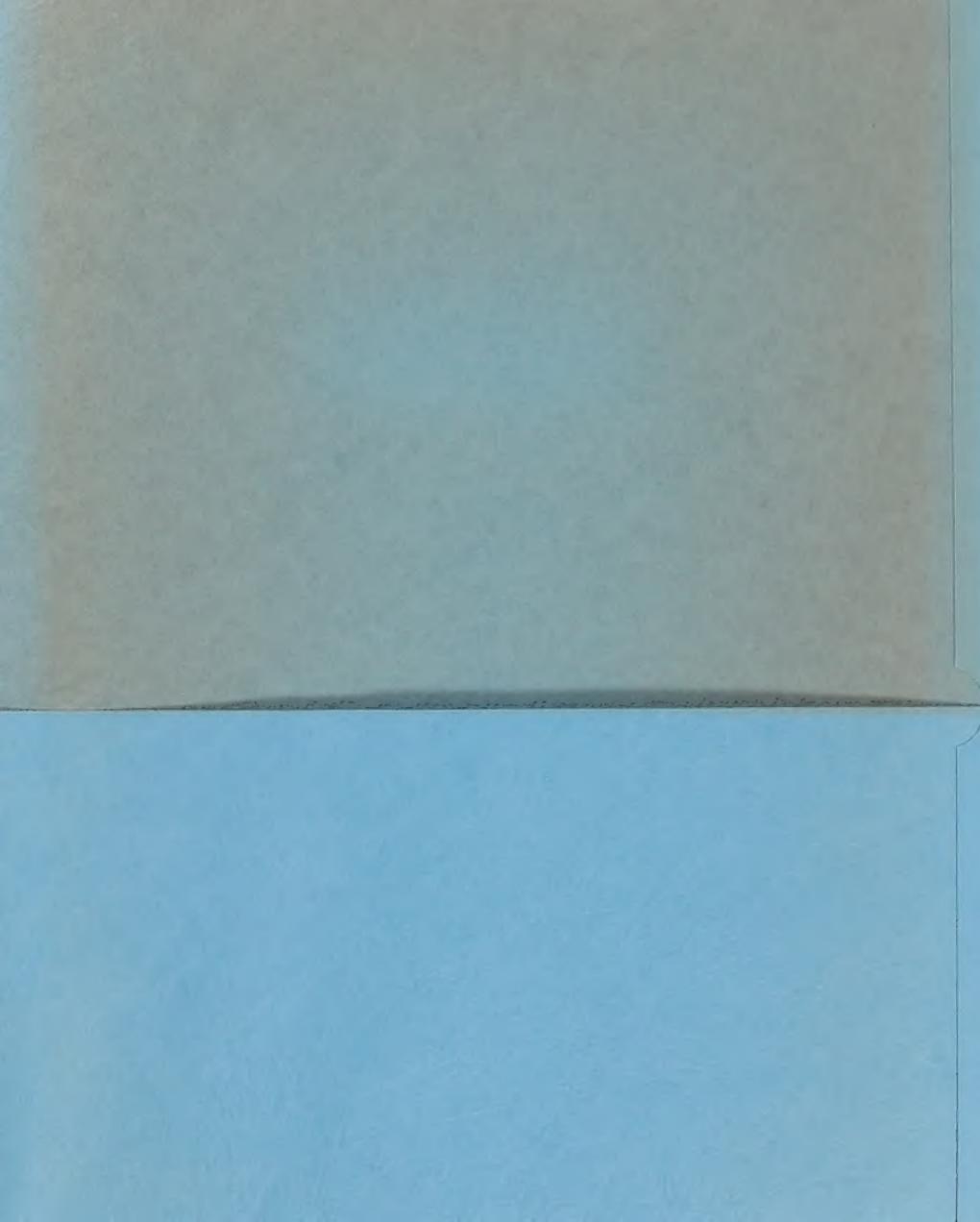
- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1 strongly agree | 2 agree | 3 disagree |
| 4 strongly disagree | 5 no opinion | <input type="checkbox"/> |

B) Please indicate what you feel is an appropriate horsepower limitation for the 15 leasehold lakes.

_____ horsepower

C) The use of waterskis, motorized surfboards or water sleds or any like recreational equipment should not be permitted in the park.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1 strongly agree | 2 agree | 3 disagree |
| 4 strongly disagree | 5 no opinion | <input type="checkbox"/> |



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